

X is O or S;

R¹ is hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₆-alkyl group, or R¹ ~~could~~ may form a substituted or unsubstituted 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated fused ring with Ar¹, or R² and R⁴ form a substituted or unsubstituted 5-6 membered saturated or ~~non-saturated~~ unsaturated ring;

R² is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkyl group;

n is ~~an integer from 0 to 5~~ 1;

R³ and R⁴ are both hydrogen ~~independently from each other selected from the group comprising or consisting of natural amino acid residues or synthetic amino acid residues, hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkoxy, NH₂, SH, thioalkyl, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkoxy carbonyl, aryl, heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted 4-8 membered cyclic alkyl, optionally containing 1-3 heteroatoms, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, C₁-C₆-thioalkoxy, whereby at least one of R³ and/or R⁴ must be an amino acid residue;~~

R⁵ is H or substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R⁶ is selected from the group ~~comprising or~~ consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-aliphatic alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted saturated cyclic C₄-C₈-alkyl optionally containing 1-3 heteroatoms and optionally fused with an aryl or an heteroaryl; or R⁶ is a substituted aryl, ~~or~~ unsubstituted aryl, substituted heteroaryl, or unsubstituted heteroaryl,

~~whereby wherein~~ said aryl or heteroaryl groups are may be ~~optionally~~ substituted with substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkyl, ~~like~~ trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₆-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-

alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, or C₁-C₆-thioalkoxy; ~~or~~

~~R⁵ and R⁶ taken together could form a substituted or unsubstituted 4-8-membered saturated cyclic alkyl or heteroalkyl group;~~

~~with the proviso that if Ar¹ is a 4-chlorophenyl, while Ar² is thienyl, X=O, n=1, the residues R¹, R², R³, R⁵ and R⁶ are H, R⁴ shall not be methyl or (4-hydroxy-phenyl)ethyl, and R² shall not be propyl while R¹, R³, R⁵ are H, R⁴ is methyl and R⁶ is 2-methylphenyl;~~

~~with the further proviso that if Ar¹ is a 4-chlorophenyl or a 2,4-bischlorophenyl residue, while Ar² is phenyl, X=O, n=1, the residues R¹, R², R³ and R⁵ are all H and R⁶ is CH₂-CO₂CH₃; R⁴ shall not be selected from the group consisting of H, CH₃, CH₂-C₆H₄-OH, 4, CH₂-CH-(CH₃)₂.~~

Claims 2-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein

R⁵ is H; and R⁶ is a C₁-C₆-alkyl which is substituted by an aryl, an heteroaryl group or an aminoaryl, aminoheteroaryl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, ~~whereby~~ wherein said aryl and heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkyl, ~~like~~ trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₆-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₆-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfoxy, or C₁-C₆-thioalkoxy.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~Sulfonyl~~ The sulfonyl amino acid ~~derivatives~~
derivative according to claim 7, wherein R⁶ is a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl group.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim
1 which is selected from the following group:

4-chloro-N-((5-[(2-[(2-[[3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-
amino]-2-oxoethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide,

4-chloro-N-[(5-[(2-[(2-[(5-nitropyridin-2-yl)amino]ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl)-
amino]sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide,

4-chloro-N-((5-[(2-oxo-2-[(2-[[3-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-
amino]ethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide,

4-chloro-N-((5-[(2-oxo-2-[(2-[[5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-
amino]ethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide,

N-((5-[(2-[(4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl)amino)-
sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)-4-chlorobenzamide, or

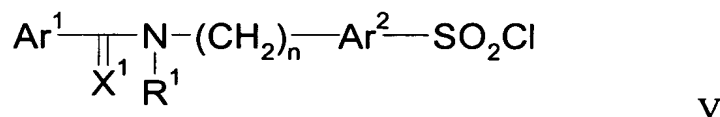
4-chloro-N-[(5-[(2-oxo-2-{3-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino}ethyl)amino]-
sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide.

Claims 10-16 (Cancelled).

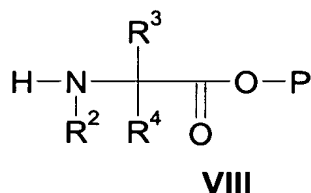
Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition ~~containing~~
comprising at least one sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1 and a
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient ~~thereof~~.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~Process A process~~ for the preparation of a the sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1 comprising ~~or consisting of the steps of:~~

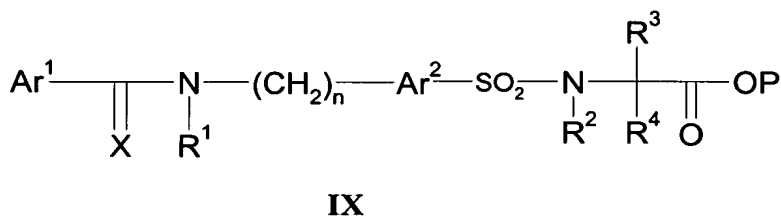
a) preparing a sulfonyl compound V,



b) reacting it the sulfonyl compound V with the protected amino acid compound VIII



~~thus leading to a~~ to obtain compound IX

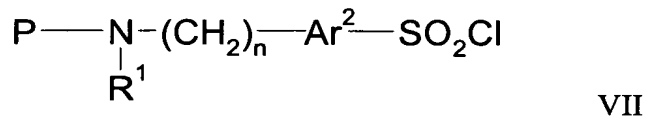


c) ~~said deprotecting~~ compound IX is ~~subjected to a deprotection~~ and finally

d) ~~a~~-coupling.

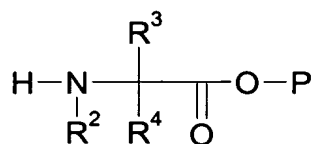
Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~Process A process~~ for the preparation of the sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1, comprising ~~or consisting of the steps of:~~

a) preparing a protected sulfonyl compound VII



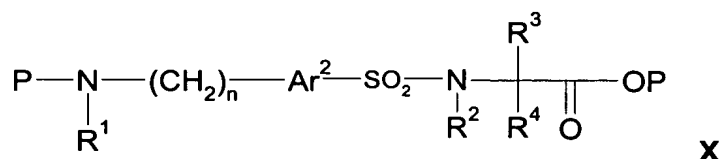
b) reacting it the sulfonyl compound VII with the protected amino acid compound

VIII



VIII

thus leading to a to obtain compound X



- e) followed by ~~deprotection~~ deprotecting;
- f) coupling;
- g) ~~deprotection~~ deprotecting, and
- h) acylation.

Claims 20-28 (Cancelled).

Claim 29 (New): The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to Claim 1, which is 4-chloro-N-({5-[(2-[(2-[[3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]-2-oxoethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide.

Claim 30 (New): A method comprising
 administering the sulfonyl amino acid derivative of Claim 1 to a mammal.

Claim 31 (New): The method according to Claim 30, wherein the mammal is a human.

Claim 32 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered orally.

Claim 33 (New): A method comprising
administering the sulfonyl amino acid derivative of Claim 1 to a human in an amount effective for modulating the JNK pathway.

Claim 34 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered to a human having a neuronal disorder selected from the group consisting of epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, retinal disease, spinal cord injury, and head trauma.

Claim 35 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered to a human having an automimmune disease selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, septic shock, and transplant rejection.

Claim 36 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered to a human having breast cancer, colorectal cancer, or pancreatic cancer.

Claim 37 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered to a human having a cardiovascular disease selected from the group consisting of stroke arterosclerosis, myocardial infarction, and myocardial reperfusion injury.

Claim 38 (New): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered in an amount effective for decreasing the production of IL-2.

Claim 39 (New): The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein Ar^1 is a chloro-phenyl group and Ar^2 is an unsubstituted thienyl group.

Claim 40 (New): The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen.